



Administrative Procedure 6214
TRADITIONAL TRIBAL REGALIA OR RECOGNIZED OBJECT
OF RELIGIOUS OR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE ADORNMENT
REQUEST AND APPEAL PROCESS FOR GRADUATION

Responsible: Office of Teaching, Learning and Leadership

PURPOSE

This Administrative Procedure shall describe the request process for students to wear traditional tribal regalia, or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance as an adornment at Washoe County School District's (District) graduation / commencement ceremonies. Additionally, this procedure sets forth the appeal process should a student request be denied.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Adornment" means something attached to, or worn with, but not replacing, the cap and gown customarily worn at school graduation ceremonies.
2. "Cultural" means recognized practices and traditions of a certain group of people.

PROCEDURE

1. Students are entitled to wear traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance as an adornment at a school graduation ceremony.
2. Students wishing to wear traditional tribal regalia, or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance as an adornment at a District graduation / commencement ceremony, must:
 - a. Present the adornment and provide a written explanation of the religious or cultural significance of the item to the principal or his/her designee, no later than 20 days prior to the graduation ceremony.
 - b. The principal or his/her designee has 3 days to either accept or deny student requests.
3. Appeals
 - a. Should a principal or his/her designee deny a student's request to wear traditional tribal regalia, or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance as an adornment at a District graduation / commencement ceremony, the student may:
 - i. Submit a written appeal within 3 days to the Associate Chief assigned to the school, which includes an explanation of the religious or cultural significance of the item.
 - ii. The Associate Chief has 3 days to either grant or deny the student's request to wear the adornment.

- b. Should a District Associate Chief deny a student’s request to wear traditional tribal regalia, or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance as an adornment at a District graduation / commencement ceremony, a student may:
 - i. Submit a written appeal to the Superintendent of Public Instruction which includes an explanation of the religious or cultural significance of the item.
 - ii. If the Superintendent of Public Instruction renders a decision in favor of the student or otherwise fails to render a decision within 5 business days after the appeal is submitted, the school shall allow the student to wear the item as an adornment at the graduation ceremony.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS & ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- 1. This Administrative Procedure reflects the goals of the District’s Strategic Plan and aligns/complies with the governing documents of the District, to include:
 - a. Board Policy 5150, Student Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Expression, and Right to Assemble;
 - b. Administrative Regulation 5127, High School Diploma Requirements; and
 - c. Administrative Regulation 5128, Graduation / Commencement Participation in Ceremony.
- 2. This Administrative Regulation complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), to include:
 - a. NRS Chapter 388, System of Public Instruction, and specifically:
 - i. NRS 388.915: Pupils entitled to wear certain adornments at graduation ceremony; exceptions; appeal of prohibition on adornment.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
05/14/2024	1.0	Adopted.